

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AF-10 DRC-01 AID-20 /199 W

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P R 311100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8002

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG KU

SUBJ: GOK FONMIN OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON ME SITUATION

SUMMARY: RESPONSIBLE FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID GOK UNDERSTOOD SADAT'S
ACCEPTANCE OF CEASE FIRE AND URGED USG ASSISTANCE TO SADAT'S
COURAGEOUS EFFORTS FOR PEACE. GOK ON SIDELINES WATCHING FOR
USG TO "DO SOMETHING" BUT DISAPPOINTED USG STILL GIVING IMPRESSION
OF PRO-ISRAELI STANCE. GOK DECISION RE OIL EMBARGO ON US AND
REDUCTION OIL EXPORTS WAS FORCED ON GOK BY STRONG LOCAL FEELING
AND COULD NOT RPT NOT BE CHANGED UNTIL SITUATION DECISIVELY ALTERED.
OFFICIAL BELIEVES PROPOSED ARAB FONMIN MEETING MIGHT TAKE EVEN
MORE SEVERE STEPS IF SITUATION NOT ALTERED AT TIME OF MEETING.
END SUMMARY

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH DCM OCT 30 RE GENERAL MIDEAST SITUATION

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DIRECTOR FONMIN POLITICAL DEPT ISSA AL-HAMAD MADE FOLLOWING

COMMENTS.

2. AT THIS POINT, GOK SOMEWHAT CONFUSED RE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION. GOK HAS ONLY WHAT INFO IT CAN GATHER FROM PRESS AND ITS EMBASSIES' REPORTS, BUT THEY ARE NOT COMPLETE. (EGYPTIAN REP MARI ARRIVED LATER ON OCT 30 AND REPORTEDLY INFORMED GOK ABOUT SITUATION FROM EGYPTIAN POINT-OF-VIEW.)

3. RE CEASEFIRE, AL-HAMAD SAID SADAT CLEARLY HAD TO TAKE STEP AND GOK UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THIS. ON OTHER HAND, ACCEPTING CEASE FIRE AND SENDING ACTING DEPUTY FONMIN ISMAIL FAHMI TO US MADE SADAT VULNERABLE TO MUCH CRITICISM. SADAT IS IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION AND NEEDS VERY BADLY TO BE ABLE TO SHOW SOME POSITIVE RESULTS FROM HIS "COURAGEOUS" ACTIONS FOR PEACE. HE ALSO NOTED HOW SUCCESSFUL EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN IN PERSUADING CHINESE NOT RPT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH CEASE FIRE IN SC DEBATE -- MATTER ABOUT WHICH HE SAID HE HAD SOME DIRECT KNOWLEDGE.

4. RE US, GOK WAS WATCHING AND WAITING FOR AMERICANS TO "DO SOMETHING" TO RESOLVE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION AL-HAMAD FOUND IT DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND WHY USG STILL APPARENTLY GOING OUT OF ITS WAY TO CONTINUE TO APPEAR STRONGLY PRO-ISRAELI. AS EXAMPLE HE GAVE CONTINUING VOA EMPHASIS ON FACT USG SHIPMENTS TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL CONTINUING AT HIGH RATE, WHILE SOVIETS CUTTING BACK AID TO ARABS. AL-HAMAD REPEATED WHAT WE OFTEN HEAR FROM ARABS -- THAT USG SEEMS BENT ON NEVER MAKING ANY CONCESSION TO ARAB SIDE. NOT ONLY DO WE TAKE ACTIONS THEY VIEW AS "ANTI-ARAB" BUT WE TEND TO RUB IT IN.

5. RE OIL EMBARGO OF US AND REDUCTION OF OIL EXPORTS, AL-HAMAD EXPLAINED WITHOUT EMOTION THAT MOVE WAS SIMPLY FORCED UPON GOK BY STRONG LOCAL FEELINGS. HE IMPLIED THAT GOK COULD SIMPLY NOT STAND UP TO PREDICTABLE FIERCE CRITICISM FROM PRESS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY, EVEN IF IT WANTED TO ACT OTHERWISE. RE CHANCES OF MOVE BEING RESCINDED, HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH IN RESOLVING ME PROBLEM BEFORE THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE COMPARED PROBLEM TO THAT OF RESUMING AID TO JORDAN -- SOME DEFINITE CHANGE WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR TO JUSTIFY A CHANGE OF POLICY.

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6. RE FUTUREF AL-HAMAD SAID ALL DEPENDED ON USG. HE HAD FEELING THAT IF NOTHING WAS RESOLVED OR PROMISING BY TIME ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET (MEETING PROPOSED BY KING HASSAN BUT TIMING NOT YET SET) THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT ARABS WILL TAKE FURTHER DRASTIC STEP IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

7. COMMENT: AL-HAMAD HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LONG TRIP WITH FONMIN SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UN

MEETINGS IN NEW YORK.

HIS VIEWS NORMALLY REFLECT HIGH LEVEL

GOK THINKING AND THEY SOUND ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE TO US. RE PROPOSED

ARAB FONMIN MEETING, AL-HAMAD DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC MOVE

THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN, BUT WE BELIEVE POSSIBILITIES WOULD CERTAINLY

INCLUDE FURTHER ACTION AGAINST US INTERESTS. LOCAL PRESS OCT

31 REPORTED GOK HAS AGREED ATTEND FONMIN CONFERENCE.

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